

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,658,185). Claims 1 and 15-16 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,250,994). Claims 1, 15 and 17 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,957.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 17, which is now cancelled. Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection of claims 1 and 15-16 to U.S. Patent No. 6,250,994 and claims 1 and 15-17 to U.S. Patent No. 6,609,957. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15-16 are now allowable over the current rejections because the anticipation rejection was not directed to former dependent claim 17, which has been incorporated into independent claim 1, and a terminal disclaimer is submitted to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

All of the claims remaining in the application (claims 1 and 15-16) are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Terminal Disclaimer  
Appointment of Associate Power of Attorney

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